United Nations E/2011/SR.54

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

15 February 2012

Original: English

Resumed substantive session of 2011

Provisional summary record of the 54th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 December 2011, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Kapambwe ..... (Zambia)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development (*continued*)

(g) Human rights (*continued*)

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*)

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

11-62111 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

Commission for Social Development

1. **The President** drawing attention to the outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Social Development, said that the Asia-Pacific Group had endorsed the candidacies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam to fill the remaining seats for Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and ending at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session in 2015. He took it that the Council wished to elect Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam by acclamation.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of one member from Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-first session in 2013; one member from Eastern European States and one member from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session in 2015; and two members from Latin America and Caribbean States and one member from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-first session in 2012 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fourth session in 2016.

4. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

5. **The President** said that the resignation of Nigeria had created a vacancy for African States. The Group of African States had endorsed Algeria to assume the resigned seat. He took it that the Council wished to elect Algeria by acclamation for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2014.

6. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

7. **The President** said that Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Sweden were resigning their seats on the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) effective on 1 January 2012. Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States of America had been endorsed by their regional group to assume the five resigned seats. He took it that the Council wished to elect Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States of America by acclamation to the Executive Board of UN-Women to complete the terms of office of Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Sweden.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The President** announced that the United States of America was resigning its seat on the Executive Board of UN-Women, which was one of the four core contributing countries allocated in accordance with paragraph 61 (a) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, effective 1 January 2012. Sweden had been selected by the top ten core contributors to assume the resigned seat.

10. He took it that the Council wished to elect Sweden by acclamation to the Executive Board of UN-Women to complete the term of office of the United States of America.

11. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the World Food Programme

12. **The President** invited the Council to fill the outstanding vacancy on the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for Latin American and Caribbean States. The relevant regional group had endorsed the candidacy of Guatemala to fill the vacancy.

13. He took it that the Council wished to elect Guatemala by acclamation to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2014.

14. *It was so decided.*

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

15. **The President** said that he had been advised that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed the candidacies of Canada and Norway to fill the remaining seats allocated for Western European and other States in the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

16. He took it that the Council wished to elect Canada and Norway by acclamation to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2014.

17. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

18. **The President** said that he had been advised that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed the candidacy of Israel for election to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to fill one of the two outstanding vacancies in their group.

19. He took it that the Council wished to elect Israel by acclamation to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2015.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, he took it that the Council agreed to further postpone the election of two members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2011; two members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2012; and two members from Eastern European States and one member from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2015.

22. *It was so decided.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

23. **The President** recalled that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/36, members elected to represent the Council in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission served a term of office beginning on 1 January and expiring two years thereafter, or until the expiration of their membership in the Council. The term of office of Guatemala would expire on 31 December 2011, creating a vacancy to be filled by the Council.

24. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the candidacy of Chile to fill the vacancy. He took it that the Council wished to elect Chile by acclamation to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission to complete the term of office of Guatemala from 1 January 2012 through 31 December 2012.

25. *It was so decided.*

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development (*continued*) (E/2011/26)

(g) Human rights (*continued*) (E/2011/22)

Action on decision 49/101 of the Commission for Social Development (E/2011/26)

26. **The President** invited the Council to take action on decision 49/101 of the Commission for Social Development. In that decision, the Commission nominated six candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, namely Mr. Ping Huang (China) and Ms. Shulz (Switzerland) for a four-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2014; Mr. Evans (United States of America), Ms. Eyben (United Kingdom), Ms. Sunden (Sweden) and Ms. Tadesse (Ethiopia) for an additional two-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2013.

27. He took it that the Council wished to confirm the nominations of those six candidates.

28. *It was so decided.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.52 entitled "Review of United Nations support for small island developing States"

29. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.52. He pointed out that Palestine had been included in error in the list of sponsors and that Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

30. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to join as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

31. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council), presenting the programme budget implications of draft resolution E/2011/L.52, said that the resource requirements for preparing the report requested in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution were estimated at $80,000, covering fees for two consultants ($20,000), travel by the consultants to attend a two-day expert group meeting in New York ($6,200), travel by six Committee members to attend the two-day expert group meeting and a day for consultations in New York ($36,400), and travel by three experts to attend the two-day expert group in New York ($17,400). It was expected that those requirements could be met from the resources proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

32. With regard to the words "within existing resources" contained in operative paragraph 1, she drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 affirming that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, there would be no additional programme budget implications for the biennium 2012-2013.

33. **The President** took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution.

34. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.52 was adopted.*

35. **Mr. Mohamed** (Observer for Maldives) said that Denmark, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Luxembourg, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom and Vanuatu aligned themselves with the statement he was about to make.

36. The consensus in favour of the draft resolution confirmed the importance placed on addressing the development issues faced by small island developing States owing to their unique vulnerabilities. The independent views of development experts were essential for the report that the Committee on Development Policy had been asked to prepare. In order to ensure that the report could be prepared within the regular budget for the biennium 2012-2013, the Secretariat should pursue innovative and cost-saving methods.

37. Paragraph 3 of the draft resolution invited the Secretary-General to facilitate the work of the Committee, and other parts of the United Nations system, including the Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States, the Small Island Developing States Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island States and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, were encouraged to do likewise.

38. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy remained the essential blueprints for the sustainable development of small island developing States, which had been recognized within the United Nations system as a particularly vulnerable grouping and which required the full and effective implementation of all commitments made to support them.

39. Preparation of the report requested in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution did not imply a new mandate to deal with small island developing States. Rather it should be viewed as an input to the review process initiated by paragraph 33 of General Assembly resolution 65/2. Nor should the report be considered by the Economic and Social Council at any future session. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable

Development was the primary intergovernmental follow-up mechanism for monitoring the implementation of commitments on small island developing States.

(g) Human rights (*continued*) (E/2011/22)

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

40. **The President** recalled that the Council had deferred consideration of recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2011/22). The Chair of the Committee had drawn the Council's attention to the growing backlog of reports submitted for the Committee's review. In order to cope with the backlog, the Committee was seeking the Council's approval for an additional two weeks of meeting time per year.

41. In view of the ongoing process of strengthening the treaty body system and the final report which the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be presenting on that subject, he proposed that the Council should further defer its consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2011/22) until its substantive session of 2012.

42. *It was so decided.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

System-wide coherence: Linkages between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

43. **The President** recalled that in paragraph 67 of General Assembly resolution 64/289, entitled "System-wide coherence", the General Assembly had emphasized the need to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as the need for coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of the work of UN-Women. He had been informed that a draft proposal was being considered by the Executive Board of UN-Women and the Commission on Status of Women. In view of that fact, he proposed that the Council should defer its consideration of the matter until its substantive session of 2012.

44. *It was so decided.*

45. **The President**, reporting on the 2011 Economic and Social Council Retreat, which had been held on 11 and 12 November, said that the retreat had brought together a group of former Economic and Social Council presidents, senior officials of the United Nations system and academics to take stock of the Council's reform to date and explore ways to further enhance its role and effectiveness in addressing global development challenges. General Assembly resolution 65/285 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 and the accompanying report of the President of the General Assembly had provided a basis for the discussions. Preparations for the upcoming Conference on Sustainable Development and a post-2015 United Nations development agenda had served as a backdrop to the Retreat. A report on the Retreat would be circulated to Council members in due course.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.